

Serial No.: 10/053,666
Atty. Docket No.: P67552US0

REMARKS

The Restriction Requirement mailed June 15, 2005, has been carefully reviewed and, by this Response, Applicants have added claim 34. Claims 15, 19-28, 30 and 32-34 are pending in the application. Claims 15, 27, 28 and 30 are independent.

In the Requirement for Restriction, the Examiner stated that the captioned application includes two patentably distinct species of fittings and movable part construction:

- a. Wherein the fitting and movable part are individual parts; and
- b. Wherein the fitting and movable part are integrally constructed as one piece.

The Examiner also stated that no claims are generic.

Applicants hereby elect species "a" to the fitting and movable part as individual parts, with traverse as to the status of claim 30 as being a generic claim. Claims 15, 19-27, 30, 32 and 33 read on the elected species.

Claim 30 is generic to the two species of fittings and movable part construction in that the language of the claim does not require that the fitting and movable part be one of integral or separate parts. Instead, the fitting and movable part components are identified as being of a common material, a limitation that can

Serial No.: 10/053,666
Atty. Docket No.: P67552US0

be met by either two separate pieces fastened together or an integral construction. Hence, reconsideration of the generic status of claim 30 is requested.

The Examiner further required that, upon election of species "a", further election be made between two species of connection types:

- c. Glue/adhesive only; and
- d. Combination of a fastener and a glue connection.

Applicants hereby elect species "c" to the glue/adhesive only, with traverse as to the status of claims 15, 27 and 30 as being generic claims. Claims 15, 19-23, 26, 27, 30, 32 and 33 read on the elected connection type species.

Claims 15, 27 and 30 are generic to the two species of connection types. More specifically, each of claims 15, 27 and 30 may be read to cover the elected species by which the fitting and movable part are connected only by glue or adhesive. Conversely, the scope of each of these three claims is sufficient in breadth to include the species in which glue/adhesive is used in combination with a fastener. Favorable reconsideration and determination of claims 15, 27 and 30 as generic is thus requested.

When both elections are taken together, claims 15, 19-23, 26, 27, 30, 32 and 33 are readable on the combination of the two elected species.

Serial No.: 10/053,666
Atty. Docket No.: P67552US0

As stated by the Examiner, upon allowance of a generic claim, Applicants will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species which are written in dependent form or otherwise include all of the limitations of the allowed generic claim as provided by 37 C.F.R. 1.141.

With this amendment and the foregoing remarks, and upon full consideration by the Examiner of the Declaration of Helmut Kaufmann and Rudolf Gradingner as filed on May 6, 2005, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner have any questions or comments, the Examiner is cordially invited to telephone the undersigned attorney so that the present application can receive an early Notice of Allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

JACOBSON HOLMAN PLLC

By Harvey B. Jacobson, Jr.
Harvey B. Jacobson, Jr.
Reg. No. 20,851 Reg. No. 40,495

400 Seventh Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20004-2201
Telephone: (202) 638-6666
Date: July 15, 2005
HBJ:SCB
R:\SBAILEY\07-05\P67552US.RRR